3. Old technologies are getting replaced by new technologies, the demand for unskilled and semi-skilled workers are less. Skilled labour are more in demand in these new industries.

4. In the present scenario, the employment rate has come down since the average skill level of the workers is not in tune with demand of the labour market.

In order to cope up with the situation indicated above, Government is revising the courses run by Industrial Training Institutes. At the same time, new trades are being introduced as per the demand of the market. Same procedure is followed for Apprenticeship Training Programmes. The Advanced Training Institutes under Ministry of Labour is running courses for upgradation of the skill level of the workers already employed.

The report of the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia has been received. The sports suggested generation of employment through intervention in 5 major areas as follows:

* Accelerating the rate of growth of GDP, with a particular emphasis on sectors likely to ensure the spread of income to the low income segments of the labour force.

* Pursuing appropriate sectoral policies in individual sectors which are particularly important for employment generation. These sector level policies must be broadly consistent with the overall objective of accelerating GDP growth.

* Implementing focused special programmes for creating additional employment of enhancing income generation from existing activities aimed at helping vulnerable groups that may not be sufficiently benefited by the more general growth promoting policies.

* Pursuing suitable policies for education and skill development, which would upgrade the quality of the labour force and make it capable of supporting a growth process which geneates high quality jobs.

The above report is being analysed and further action will be taken as per the decision of the Government on it.

Market expansion of e-Commerce

*450. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's online shopping is a paltry two percent of all Internet users;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the world's second most populated country is lagging behind in e-commerce;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a large scope for real market expansion of e-commerce in India and Asia Pacific; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to explore the market and to what extent population of this region would be regular Internet user?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Numerically, most popular form of e-Commerce takes place over the internet. However, as per the latest Boston Consultancy Group report for NASSCOM, there are about 5 million Internet users amounting to about 0.5 of population of India.

(b) For e-commerce over the Internet, there need to be a change in mindset of the consumer. As per the global experience, the successful nature and form of e-Commerce generally varies on the local conditions/practices in the respective countries. It may, therefore, be expected that with time e-Commerce will grow into its specific form with sustainable roots in India.

(c) As per the NASSCOM McKinsey study report 1999, India has a potential to earn revenues worth US$ 10 Billion by the year 2008 from e-business solutions.

(d) Government plays a proactive facilitator role in the promotion of e-Commerce in India. It is the numerous enterprises, large and small, public and private, who are expected to promote and sustain e-Commerce in India. To facilitate e-Commerce, Government of India had enacted Information Technology Act 2000 in October 2000 to provide the supporting legal framework. Other solutions such as e-cheque etc. are under development.

Expansion of Antyodaya Anna Yojana

*451. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to expand the 'Antyodaya' programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;